



State Senator

Neal J. Kedzie

11th Senate District

**Testimony on Assembly Bill 335
Senator Neal Kedzie
Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities
February 3, 2010**

Chairman Hixson, members of the Committee, thank you for holding a hearing today on Assembly Bill 335.

I am joined today by Dr. Bill Duncan, Vice President and Chief Academic Officer from George Williams College of Aurora University, who brought this issue to the attention of Representative Lothian and me.

Under current law, no person or entity in charge of a public place may allow the consumption of alcohol in the public place unless they have an appropriate retail license or permit. There are many exceptions to this law, such as municipal and county property, churches, and certain athletic fields and stadiums. In those cases, the owner or entity in charge has the authority over whether or not to allow the consumption of alcohol.

Assembly Bill 335 would include "campuses of private colleges, as defined in S. 16.99 (3g), at the place and time an event sponsored by the private college is being held" under the list of existing exemptions. Again, this would allow the private college to make the decision as to whether or not to allow the consumption of alcohol at events they hold.

This issue was brought forward to us by George Williams College in relation to their Music by the Lake Series. Each year, they have a series of musical performances in their outside pavilion. In addition to their reserved seating area, they also have a picnic area where guests are allowed to bring in their own food and beverage. Recently, George Williams College was notified by local law enforcement that state law prohibited guests to the Music by the Lake Series from bringing and consuming their own alcoholic beverages. Assembly Bill 335 was drafted to address not only this specific issue, but to provide private colleges throughout the state the ability to make their own determination as to whether or not people who attend events on their campuses can consume alcoholic beverages at those events.

Thank you for your consideration of Assembly Bill 335, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.